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**Planning Strategies For Developing A ‘Growth Node’ In Cochin City – Case Of Maradu**

Cochin City Region has been experiencing a rapid growth of urban population. This leads to wide gap between demand & supply of employment, housing and other basic facilities. Urgent need is felt to distribute urban population and services in self-dependent growth nodes which will hold a share of metropolitan growth and services. Development Plan for Kochi city region 2031 (Draft) and District Urbanization Report 2011, Ernakulam identified 13 urban centres in next 10 years within Greater Cochin Development Authority (GCDA) area to decentralize activities and population from metro core. Maradu is one of the important growth nodes among identified growth centre. In this Thesis Maradu Municipality in the South Ernakulam district has been chosen as the study area. An attempt is being taken to signify the growth potential of Maradu with respect to the other sub-regions within Kochi city region. Few areas have been focused within Maradu and network analysis has been done to assess the connectivity of Maradu with other major growth nodes within Kochi city region. An attempt is done to make Maradu an integral part of Kochi. Within Maradu, developable growth zone is identified depending on population distribution, density distribution, availability of infrastructure, waterway connectivity, tourism potential and availability of vacant land. Existing situation of identified growth zone is analysed. Development planning strategies are proposed for the zone having potential for future development and planning proposal for socioeconomic infrastructure is allocated.

***Keywords:*** *Growth Node; Developable zone; Growth potential; Planning strategies*